

The site of this nest was typical of all that we saw, it was placed in a hollow of the ground under the interlacing stems of the *Cotoneaster*, being almost concealed by them from sight and very difficult to discover in consequence.

A second nest with 4 fresh eggs was revealed by the bird which flew off just in front of us as we slowly searched another patch of *Cotoneaster*; each time this bird was flushed she flew up into the oaks at the edge of the forest.

A third nest found in the course of our search contained three slightly incubated eggs, one of which was damaged. It was deserted, and doubtless the sitting bird had been attacked by some enemy, possibly a snake as there were some about.

The fourth nest was again revealed by the bird leaving it in front of us. She however did not fly up into the oaks, but each time fluttered along the ground into a patch of scrub and so on down the steep hill side, with the action characteristic of most hill-breeding Pipits.

The last three nests were similar in construction, a mass of moss and dry grass with a well constructed cup of fine dry grass stems lined with a few hairs. The first nest differed slightly in that there was practically no moss in the foundations, and there was a thick lining of the curious spine-like hairs of the musk-deer.

Next day I found one egg in a deserted nest which was littered with a few feathers as if the bird had been caught on it. This nest was rather wider and lined with coarse grass, and the situation was more open at the foot of a clump of growing bracken. It was on the northern slope of the hill, 500 feet lower than the other nests, and in a more open situation further from the oak forest.

The eggs obtained were all typical in colour and size.

BATTLE, SUSSEX,

HUGH WHISTLER, F.L.S., F.Z.S.,

31st December 1924.

Indian Police.

No. VIII.—THE COTTON TEAL.

You may be interested to hear that on the 28th August this year a cotton teal's nest was discovered in a box-like hole at the end of a coping on the roof of Government House, Rangoon, 68 feet from the ground. There were 13 young birds which had apparently been pushed out by the mother and fallen to the ground, some of them hitting some telephone wires about 15 feet from the ground. A servant, who saw some of them falling, was emphatic that they fell like a stone for a long distance and then fluttered and broke the fall as they approached the ground. He did not see any of them being carried down by the mother in her feet. The mother and the whole brood were caught, but in the night the mother escaped and all efforts to save the young birds by artificial feeding failed.

GOVERNOR'S CAMP,

BURMA,

25th August 1924.

HARCOURT BUTLER.

[The lofty situation of the nest above the ground is remarkable. Stuart Baker (*vide* Indian Ducks, etc.) could not recall from his observations any that were above 15 or 16 feet from the ground. He mentions Oates' record of a nest on a mango tree 30 feet from the ground and quotes Cripps who says that the birds even 'laid their eggs in the factory chimneys.' The method by which the newly hatched goslets are brought to the ground, as reported by Sir Harcourt Butler throws fresh light on the nesting habits of the species.—Eds.]